5: Dorsey & Murie E,I-5 (1903-1907) 1940
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of each mourner, asking that he cease crying. The chief gave each one a little food to break the fast. The remainder of the food was next divided, though nothing was distributed among the spectators; however, at the end of the feast they thanked the chief for his services. 765

Certain observances were obligatory for widows and widowers. A woman who had lost her husband was supposed to observe carefully a mourning period of at least a year, and in case he had been a man of prominence she might prolong this to two years. During this time she lived with her own people or she might stay in the lodge of her husband's parents. In the latter case it was understood that at the termination of the mourning period she would become the wife of her deceased husband's younger brother or the wife of his sister's son. Until that time she was supposed to remain chaste. A childless widow invariably returned to her parents' lodge, but following the mourning period she could remarry in the manner just noted or she could marry an outsider. However, in the latter instance she would not be considered as desirable as at the time she first married and the gifts to her relatives would be less. Thus if ten ponies were presented at her first marriage only one or two would be paid when she married again. 765 768 [587] [834] 768 587

Widowers were supposed to mourn for their wives at least two years, and sometimes mourned three. Many never remarried. Very often when a widower did not seek another spouse he was urged by his relatives to remarry, and they expressed their desire by offering to furnish the presents necessary to secure a second wife. As a rule, although a widower mourned for the usual period, he did not consider marrying again until he had gone on the war-path, taken scalps, and captured ponies. This was a somewhat formal way of terminating mourning and making himself eligible for remarriage. 765 768 587

It remains to record certain other observances connected with burial and mourning customs. As a rule, the close friends of the deceased performed some act of bodily mutilation immediately after or just before the burial, the men slashing their arms, breasts, or legs with knives and the women cutting their hair. Hair thus cut was at once burned, for fear that the Morning Star would see it upon the grave and claim the victim as his own sacrifice. For the same reason horse's hair cut off during burial services was also burned. 765

On the burial of a warrior killed in battle his close friends and relatives seized the first opportunity to visit enemy country 721 765